Conversion of Agricultural Land for Non-agriculture use

862. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural/farm use has increased in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to issue guidelines to be followed by the State Governments to protect land for being diverted to non-farm use in the immediate future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (e) Conversion of agricultural land for non-farm use such as housing, industrial development, transport, defence purposes etc. is taking place due to growing population and diversification of economic activity. Government of India have been repeatedly impressing upon all the State and Union Territories to protect good agricultural land from being diverted for non-agricultural purposes. In this regard Government of India has also formulated a National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) and recommended to the States for implementation. The NLPO inter-alia envisages the restructuring of urban policy to ensure that highly productive land is not taken away.

Irrigation potential in Maharashtra

863. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the difference in average yield of irrigated land is higher by 70 to 120 per cent for various crops than that in unirrigated lands in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to increase the irrigation potential of the State to increase the yield of crops in the State:

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) A comparative statement giving average yields of important crops for irrigated and unirrigated lands in Maharashtra during 1994-95 (latest available) is given in the Statement. *(See* below)

(c) Irrigation projects for creation of irrigation potential are implemented by the State Governments from State funds and plan allocations so as to increase the yield of crops in the State. Due to the efforts taken in this regard the gross irrigated area in Maharashtra, Which was 12.20 lakh hectares in 1960-61, increased to 32.62 lakh hectares in 1992-93 (latest available), as per the land use statistics.

Statement

A comparative statement giving average yields of important crops for irrigated and unirrigated lands in Maharashtra during 1994-95

Yield per hectare (in Kes.)

	Crop	Irrigated	Unirrigated	% difference in irrigated and Unirrigated
1	Rice-Kharif	1416	1164	21.6
	(Summer)	1852	1587	16.7
2	Jowar-Rabi	859	443	93.9
3	Bajra	982	613	60.2
4	Wheat	1696	717	136.5
5	Gram	794	543	46.2
6	Groundnut (Summer)	1676	—	—
7	Soyabean	—	938	—
8	Cotton (Kapas)	759	402	88.8
9	Sugarcane	85527	—	—

पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र और राजस्थान में केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन का क्षेत्रीय प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र खोला जाना

864. श्री शिव चरण सिंह: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कुछ संसद सदस्यों द्वारा सरकार का पत्र लिखकर पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र और राजस्थान में केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन के क्षेत्रीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यालय खोलने का अनुरोध किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार की इस संबंध में क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। राजस्थान में जयपुर में और पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में केन्द्रीय आंचलिक शिक्षा तथा प्रशिक्षण संस्थान खोलने के लिए एक संसद सदस्य से अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है।

(ग) सरकार ने ऐसे स्थानों के संबंध में पहले ही निर्णय ले लिया है जहां प्रशिक्षण संस्थान स्थापित किए जाने हैं।

Relaxation of norms for import of potassic fertilizers

865. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite caveat by agricultural body, norms for import of potassic fertilizers from CIS has been relaxed, as reported in the "Indian Express", dated 5.11.96;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts in this regard;

(c) the justification for relaxing the norms against the technical opinion; and

(d) the total quantity of chemical fertilizer imported since relaxation of statutory specifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) Prior to the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers in August '92, relaxation in particle size specifications was being accorded for import of Muriate of Potash (MOP) from the Former Soviet Union (FSU), which is one of the largest producers of MOP. Since the decanalisation of MOP imports in June '93, the question of relaxation in particle size specifications has been under the active consideration of the Government. As no definite technical opinion could be formulated on the effect of particle size on the agronomic efficacy of MOP, it has been decided to relax these specifications for a period of one year with effect from 31.10.1996 to avoid disruption in the imports of MOP.

(d) No imports of MOP from the FSU have been reported after 31.10.1996.

Pension to retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.

866.SHR1MATI MALT! SHARMA:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any request in 199S, for grant of pension to the retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, Pune;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and the time by which Government are expected to take a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. This Ministry had received representations in regard to introduction of a pension scheme for the retired employees of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) with effect from 1.1.1986. There had been no pension scheme uniformly applicable to all public sector undertakings. The Govenrment has now notified a pension scheme-through Notification No. GSR-740(E) dated 16.11.1993. It is uniformely applicable to all organisations covered by the Employees Provident Fund and the Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. In terms of the scheme, the employees have been given option of becoming members from 1.4.1993. It is not possible for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. to introduce a pension scheme with effect from 1.1.1986.

Decline in wheat cultivation

867. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under wheat cultivation has declined and the area under the non-food crops has increased; if so, the decline in land